

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

Approved:

12/12/84

BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 5, 1984

GEORGE N. GRAY  
CHAIRMAN

New Orleans, Louisiana

LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

December 5, 1984

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF  
LOUISIANA WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

December 5, 1984

Chairman George N. Gray, presiding:

Members Present:

Dr. Jack Cappel  
Mr. James Farrelly  
Mr. Joe Palmisano  
Mr. Dale Vinet

The regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission was called to order by Chairman George Gray, on Wednesday, December 5, 1984 at 10:00 AM at the Royal Orleans in New Orleans.

A roll call was taken.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, and seconded by Mr. Farrelly, to approve the minutes of November 14, 1984.

Corky Perret reported on the underutilized species program. He stated that one of the problems the Department has experienced with the program is that when it was put into effect we had no personnel to work with it. With the new saltwater finfish program we now have some people who are involved and are looking into updating and possible revision of some of the rules and regulations that are now in effect. In 1979 the Commission adopted seventeen regulations; these are being reviewed and suggestions will be given to you for modification after input from the general public, different commercial fishing interest, recreational interest, etc.

He also stated that the Department received calls from activities with one permitted gear for mullet and/or black drum which are part of this underutilized species program. The gear is being fished in areas or in water that are off-limits. The enforcement agents have put in a lot of effort answering these particular charges and have issued a couple of citations. The problem has to do with the gear being fished in such a manner that it doesn't really qualify as a purse seine. We're now looking into the possible revision of that definition. He mentioned that the problem is mainly east of the river, St. Bernard Parish, Lake Borgne area.

Corky Perret also discussed Act 300 and 692 passed during the 1984 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature which in essence set a closure in our offshore territorial waters which basically is from the beach out three miles. It has to be closed

for a minimum of 30 days and cannot be closed for more than 60. After review of some of our historical data of January, February and March with some input from the industry our recommendation is that the closure should be January 15th to March 15th which would be for a 60 day period. That concurs with Act 300 which was the act that stated it shall close from January 15 to March 15. Our recommendation this year is that the Commission go along with these specific dates.

A motion was made by Mr. Farrelly, seconded by Mr. Vinet, to adopt the recommendation of the biologists as far as the closure of the outside waters.

Ray Montet gave the monthly enforcement report for the month of October at Tuesday's meeting.

Harry Schafer presented the Survey Section Report for the period of November 5-23, 1984. During that period, field activity consisted of 24 surveys scheduled, 16 of which were surveyed. Eight (8) applications were unable to be surveyed due to bad weather or low tide. Office activity consisted of \$381 collected for lease rental; \$936 collected from survey fees; 14 tonnage licenses issued; 8 dredging licenses issued and 13 leases issued.

Johnnie Tarver presented a resolution to the Commission to change existing regulations for Rockefeller Refuge. A motion was made by Mr. Palmisano, seconded by Mr. Farrelly, to accept the resolution.

(The full text of the resolution  
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries received the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge under a conditional Deed of Donation in 1920; and

WHEREAS, the Deed of Donation has been revised by a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Interior and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries effective the 18th day of April, 1983; and

WHEREAS, provisions of the original Deed of Donation and the Memorandum of Agreement permit recreational use of the area; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has been permitting sport fishing and other recreational use of the area for 25 years without interference with the wildlife management programs on the area; and

WHEREAS, numerous regulations have been adopted by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to control public use of the wildlife refuge area; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby adopt the following rules and regulations to govern the use of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge for sport fishing and other recreational uses.

1. The visiting season on the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge will extend from March 1st to December 1st throughout the Refuge except those restricted areas designated to prohibit interference with research activities. Use of Humble Canal; Joseph Harbor Bayou; Headquarters Canal; East End Road and Locks; Union Producing Canal; Deep Lake; East End Boundary Canal; and Rollover Bayou shall be yearround. In addition to this access, sport fishermen shall be permitted to enter the Refuge from the Gulf side in East Constance Bayou, East Little Constance Bayou, Big Constance Bayou, Little Constance Bayou. Access through these bayous will be permitted only as far inland as the existing water control structures. The remainder of the Refuge shall be restricted during the winter months and will be closed to all trespassing.

2. Use of the Refuge will be allowed from one-half (1/2) hour before official sunrise until official sunset. This includes access routes through the Refuge.

3. Overnight camping is prohibited.

4. Hunting, molesting or intentional disturbing of wildlife is prohibited.

5. Trawling on the Refuge is prohibited. Trotlines, jug lines, trammel and gill nets and traps are prohibited. All commercial fishing is prohibited. One-hundred (100) pounds of shrimp per boat per day is allowed during the inside open shrimp season as established by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission. Ten (10) pounds of shrimp for bait purposes may be caught during the closed season. Shrimp can be harvested only by cast net or dip net on the Refuge and only for sport fishing or home consumption use.

6. Crawfish may be harvested from the open portion of the Refuge and one-hundred (100) pounds per boat or vehicle is allowed per day. Set nets may be used but must be attended and removed from the Refuge daily. No commercial harvest allowed.

7. Oysters may be harvested from the natural reefs. One (1) gallon per boat per day is allowed and oysters must be opened at the reef and the shells returned to the reef.

8. The burning of the marshes is prohibited. Water control structures are not to be tampered with or altered by anyone other than employees of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

9. Bringing firearms, bows, and arrows, liquor and controlled substance narcotics onto the Refuge is prohibited. All boats and vehicles are subject to search by all authorized employees of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at anytime.

10. Boat travel on the Refuge will be maintained at a minimum and boats shall be operated so as to create a minimum of wave wash. Speed boat racing and water skiing is prohibited. Pulling boats over levees, dams or water control structures is prohibited.

11. No littering is allowed. Visitors must remove their litter or place in appropriate litter disposal sites, now

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary is hereby authorized to publicize this change in regulations through the news media.

This is to certify that the above and foregoing is a true copy of the excerpt of the minutes of the meeting of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission held in New Orleans, Louisiana on Wednesday, December 5, 1984.

Johnnie Tarver presented another resolution to the Commission concerning Rockefeller Refuge pertaining to the shrimp harvest programs. A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Cappel, to accept the resolution.

(The full text of the resolution  
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries received the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge under a conditional Deed of Donation in 1920; and

WHEREAS, limited shrimp harvest programs on Rockefeller Refuge were designed to permit public utilization; and

WHEREAS, examination of that program may improve the overall function, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby recommend consideration of the harvest program by the Governor's Task Force.

Hugh Bateman reported on the Game Division activities. He pointed out that all of our major hunting seasons are currently underway here in the state with the exception, of course, of the woodcock season which will open next week and the spring turkey season which doesn't open until April. The managed deer hunts on the wildlife management areas are now underway. Mr. Jerry Farrar, deer study leader, will be at the January meeting to bring you up to date on the overall deer management program.

Chester Carpenter presented a resolution to the Commission concerning the Hunter Safety Program. A motion was made by Dr. Cappel, seconded by Mr. Palmisano, to accept the resolution.

(The full text of the resolution  
here is made a part of the record)

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission has recognized the need for firearms and hunter education for the hunters of Louisiana and requested a mandatory bill be enacted by the Louisiana Legislature, and

WHEREAS, the 1984 Louisiana Legislature passed Act 149 requiring mandatory hunter safety certification prior to purchase of a hunting license for anyone born on or after September 1, 1969, and

WHEREAS, the 1984 Legislature has mandated the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to adopt rules to regulate the mandatory firearms and hunter education program, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission propose the following regulations:

1. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission shall be the sole authority for establishing minimum requirements for certification of students and volunteer instructors and for the overall administration of the hunter education program.
2. The Louisiana Department of wildlife and Fisheries shall maintain a computer register of all students and instructors who have successfully met all requirements for certification.
3. Requirements for student certification shall be as follows:
  - a) A minimum of six (6) hours classroom instruction.
  - b) Pass a written exam prepared by the Department.
  - c) Demonstration of proficiency of hunting firearms under field conditions.
  - d) Upon successful completion of the requirements, students shall receive permanent credentials.
4. Requirements for volunteer instructor certification shall be as follows:
  - a) A minimum of twelve (12) hours classroom instruction.
  - b) Pass a written exam prepared by the Department.
  - c) Demonstration of proficiency of firearms through a field shooting exercise.
  - d) Upon successful completion, candidates as volunteers shall be certified for a two year period. Recertification shall be based on continued participation in the Louisiana Firearms and Hunter Education Program.

A motion was made by Mr. Vinet, seconded by Dr. Cappel, that the March meeting be Tuesday and Wednesday, the 5th and 6th in Baton Rouge.

Mr. Farrelly made some comments since this meeting may be his last one. He was appointed by Governor Edwards and served under Treen and now serving under Governor Edwards. He complimented Mr. Angelle, the staff and the Commission for all of their good work.

Mr. Angelle said that he felt Mr. Farrelly has been an outstanding member of the Commission and we will miss him.

Mr. Gray complimented Mr. Farrelly and said that he could always be depended upon. He invited Mr. Farrelly to a Commission meeting that will be held in Shreveport.

Mr. Vinet said that he really enjoyed working with Jim and he asked for Mr. Farrelly's advice in the future relating to the shrimp business.

Mr. Angelle mentioned that we will be presenting our budget to the Legislative committees sometime next week. Some services will have to be curtailed because of loss of some revenue.

Mr. Gray adjourned the meeting.